

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: MARR, MMOL, TU, GW
SUBJ: FRG INTEREST IN TURKISH DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

1. THE INFLUENTIAL AND WELL INFORMED COLUMNIST NILUFER YALCIN REPORTS IN PRO-GOVERNMENT "MILLIYET" ON JUNE 8 THAT DURING PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S RECENT VISIT TO BONN, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PROMISED TO SEND A TEAM TO TURKEY TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF JOINT VENTURES/COOPERATION IN THE TURKISH ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY. YALCIN WRITES THAT THE GERMAN TEAM WILL ALSO DISCUSS HERMES BANK GUARANTEES FOR A DM 560 MILLION LOAN FOR LEOPARD TANKS AND MILAN MISSILES. FOR THEIR PART, THE TURKS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE DETERMINED IN WHICH FIELDS THEY WILL AGREE TO JOINT VENTURES. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THESE INCLUDE THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, SHIPYARDS AND TANK
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HEAVY MAINTENANCE SHOPS.

2. THE "MILLIYET" STORY ALSO REPORTS THAT OTHER NATO ALLIES ARE SIMILARLY INTERESTED AND THAT JOINT VENTURES WITH THE U.S. MAY BE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ONCE THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED. REPORTEDLY, TURKEY SEEKS TO EXPAND ITS ARMS INDUSTRY

THROUGH (A) NATO ORDERS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM EXISTING TURKISH PRODUCTION FACILITIES; (B) EXPANSION OF EXISTING PRODUCTION FACILITIES WITH GOT FUNDS; AND (C) COOPERATION/JOINT VENTURES WITH NATO ALLIES IN THE PRODUCTION OF NATO STANDARD EQUIPMENT.

3. COMMENT: EMBOFF SPOKE WITH FRG ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WHO CONFIRMED THAT A FIVE-MAN TEAM UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENT OF ARMAMENTS WOULD BE IN ANKARA JUNE 13-15. GERMAN EMBOFF SAID THAT THE GOT HAD PREPARED A LIST OF THOSE INDUSTRIES WHERE JOINT COOPERATION WAS DESIRED AND THAT THE FRG TEAM WOULD INVESTIGATE THESE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MOST FRG ARMAMENTS ARE PRODUCED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR OVER WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO DIRECT CONTROL. GERMAN EMBOFF DID SAY THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT HAD PREPARED A REALISTIC LIST OF EXISTING INDUSTRIES AND WAS NOT GOING TO PROPOSE, AS THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT DID, A FRG-TURKISH JOINT VENTURE IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH THERE WAS NO EXISTING FACILITY IN TURKEY.

4. IF THE "MILLIYET" STORY IS CORRECT, JOINT FRG-TURKISH VENTURES IN ELECTRONICS, SHIP CONSTRUCTION AND TANK MAINTENANCE SEEM REASONABLE. THE TURKS ARE ALREADY PRODUCING SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND ARE PLANNING TO PRODUCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WHICH FRG TECHNOLOGY AND ASSISTANCE COULD MEASURABLY ENHANCE. SIMILARLY, THE TURKS ARE BUILDING A SUBMARINE AT GOLCUK SHIPYARD ON AN FRG DESIGN AND WITH FRG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. FINALLY, THE GOT HAS BEEN FIELD TESTING TWO DIESEL ENGINES FOR M-47 AND M-48 TANKS, AND A DECISION MAY BE MADE ON THE GERMAN ENGINES WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. DILLON

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